



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 728

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6918

House of Representatives, April 17, 2025

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. STAFSTROM of the 129th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROHIBITING FIRST COUSIN MARRIAGE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) On and after October 1,
2 2025, no person may knowingly marry such person's first cousin.

3 Sec. 2. Section 46b-20a of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

5 A person is eligible to marry if such person is:

6 (1) Not a party to another marriage, or a relationship that provides
7 substantially the same rights, benefits and responsibilities as a marriage,
8 entered into in this state or another state or jurisdiction, unless the
9 parties to the marriage will be the same as the parties to such other
10 relationship;

11 (2) At least eighteen years of age;

12 (3) Except as provided in section 46b-29, not under the supervision or

13 control of a conservator; and

14 (4) Not prohibited from entering into a marriage pursuant to section
15 46b-21 or section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	46b-20a

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
All Municipalities	Potential Revenue Loss	Minimal	Minimal

Explanation

The bill results in a potential revenue loss to municipalities beginning in FY 26 to the extent fewer marriage licenses are issued as the bill prohibits first cousins from marrying.¹

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of couples that would have otherwise purchased a marriage license and the cost of the marriage license.

¹ Any impact is expected to be minimal as a marriage license is approximately \$50.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6918*****AN ACT PROHIBITING FIRST COUSIN MARRIAGE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes first cousins ineligible to marry each other. It does so by prohibiting them from knowingly entering any such marriage on or after October 1, 2025.

Existing law already prohibits anyone from marrying his or her parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling, parent's sibling, sibling's child, stepparent, or stepchild; and makes any such marriage void.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

ELIGIBILITY TO MARRY

Under existing law, a person is eligible to marry, if he or she is at least age 18 and is not:

1. already married, or in a relationship that provides substantially the same rights, benefits, and responsibilities as a marriage, entered into in Connecticut or another state or jurisdiction (unless the parties to the marriage are the same individuals in the relationship);
2. under the supervision or control of a conservator, unless the conservator's signed and acknowledged written consent is filed with the registrar of vital statistics; and
3. prohibited from entering a marriage because the other party is his or her parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling, parent's sibling, sibling's child, stepparent, or stepchild.

Under the bill's prohibition, first cousins are also not eligible to marry.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 41 Nay 0 (04/04/2025)